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I.—*A Revision of the Genus Haplopelia.* By DAVID  
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WHILE engaged in working out the collections of the late Mr. Boyd Alexander, which he made in West Africa and the islands in the Gulf of Guinea, I experienced considerable difficulty in naming the specimens of the genus *Haplopelia* that he had obtained.

I found that the entire genus was in a great state of confusion, and that in several cases a single species had received two or three names, owing to the many phases of plumage through which these Pigeons pass before attaining that of the adult bird. In the following pages I have attempted to clear up some of the disputed points, but this paper must on no account be taken as a final revision of this difficult genus.

Thanks mainly to Mr. Boyd Alexander, the British Museum now possesses a very fair series of the majority of forms which have been described, and only one species (*H. hypoleuca* Salvad.) is unrepresented in the collection. Unfortunately, in one or two cases, I have been unable to

determine whether specimens (apparently quite adult) have passed into the final stage of plumage which they assume. Only more material can decide this point, and it is quite possible that my views will then have to be modified.

A key to the species is included, which, it is hoped, will be of some assistance to future workers.

In each case the type-locality is clearly stated, together with a reference to the original description.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant has very kindly examined the entire group with me and assisted me greatly in making the key.

The geographical distribution of the genus *Haplopetia*, which is confined to the Ethiopian Region, has been worked out as carefully as possible.

The headquarters of the genus may be said to be in the Gulf of Guinea and the adjoining mainland, from which district and islands I recognize six races, not including *H. forbesi* (type-locality unknown) which most probably came from the west coast of Africa, perhaps Gaboon.

Travelling across Africa from west to east after Cameroon has been passed, we next meet with a member of the genus in Uganda, where *H. simplex jacksoni* inhabits the Ruwenzori country. In eastern Africa the genus is represented by two forms only (a third has been described from Nyasaland, but is not distinct). *H. larvata larvata* has an extensive distribution ranging from British East Africa to the Cape, and there is a small representative race, *H. l. bronzina*, inhabiting Abyssinia.

The genus *Haplopetia* (originally spelt *Aplopetia*) was created by Bonaparte in the 'Conspectus Generum Avium,' 1854, p. 66, and characterized as follows:—"Remigum secunda tertiam æquante; cauda mediocris, truncata." The type of the genus is *Haplopetia larvata* (Temm.).

In dealing with the various races of *Haplopetia*, I have come to the conclusion that they are best divided into two main sections: (A) those having chestnut under tail-coverts; (B) those without chestnut under tail-coverts, in which case these feathers are either pale cinnamon, grey, or white.

Taking the A section first, we have :

1. *Haplopetia larvata larvata*.
2. *Haplopetia larvata bronzina*.

Taking the B section, we have :

1. *Haplopetia simplex simplex*.
2. *Haplopetia simplex jacksoni*.
3. *Haplopetia simplex inornata*.
4. *Haplopetia simplex poensis*.
5. *Haplopetia simplex plumescens*.
6. *Haplopetia simplex hypoleuca*.
7. *Haplopetia forbesi*.
8. *Haplopetia principalis*.

I consider that 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are subspecies of No. 1 (*H. s. simplex*). As regards *Haplopetia forbesi*, it will be seen that I have here used binomial nomenclature, as I believe that it will prove to be the hen of a bird very closely allied to *H. s. simplex*, and will then become a subspecies of the St. Thomas Island form. The bird will be fully discussed in the following pages.

No. 8, *Haplopetia principalis*, I consider to be a distinct species, for reasons explained later.

#### *Key to the Species.*

- A. Under tail-coverts chestnut.
- a'. Wing larger, more than 140 mm. . . . . *larvata* ♂ ♀, p. 4.
- b'. Wing smaller, less than 140 mm. . . . . *bronzina* ♂ ♀, p. 5.
- B. Under tail-coverts not chestnut.
- c'. Tips of the outer pairs of tail-feathers entirely grey on both webs.
- a". Breast dove-grey (chest sometimes washed with pinkish).
- a''' . Bill larger, from feathers on forehead 15-16 mm. . . . . *simplex* ♂, p. 9.
- b''' . Bill smaller, from feathers on forehead 12-13.5 mm. . . . .
- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| } | <i>inornata</i> ♂, p. 11.   |
| } | <i>poensis</i> ♂, p. 11.    |
| } | <i>plumescens</i> ♂, p. 13. |
| } | <i>hypoleuca</i> ♂, p. 12.  |
- b". Breast grey washed with pinkish . . . . . *jacksoni* ♂, p. 14.

- c'*. Breast dull reddish-vinaceous..... *jacksoni* ♀ et ♂  
[imm., p. 14.
- d'*. Breast pinkish-vinaceous ..... *principalis* ♂, p. 16.
- d'*. Tips of the outer pairs of tail-feathers grey,  
on the inner web *only* in adult birds, ex-  
tending partially on to outer web in imma-  
ture birds.
- e'*. Breast vinaceous-buff.
- e'''*. Under tail-coverts pale cinnamon.... *inornata* ♀, p. 11.
- d'''*. Under tail-coverts grey ..... *poensis* ♀, p. 11.
- e'''*. Under tail-coverts white ..... *plumbescens* ♀, p. 13.
- f'*. Breast earth-brown tinged with buff or  
inclining to greyish ..... } *simplex* ♀, p. 9.  
} *poensis* ♂ imm., p. 11.
- g'*. Breast pinkish-vinaceous or washed with  
buff..... *principalis* ♀, p. 16.
- h'*. Breast dark rufous-cinnamon; under  
tail-coverts white ..... *forbesi* ♀, p. 15.

I have not examined a specimen of *H. s. hypoleuca* from Annobon. From the description of the adult male it is indistinguishable from the males of *H. s. inornata*, *H. s. poensis*, and *H. s. plumbescens*. I have, therefore, included it with these subspecies in my key. The hen of *H. s. hypoleuca* is unknown, but it may, when procured, show characters distinct from the hens of *H. s. inornata*, *H. s. poensis*, and *H. s. plumbescens*.

#### SECTION A.

##### *Haplopelia larvata larvata*.

*Columba larvata* Temm., Knip, Fig. 1809, p. 71, pl. 31 :  
Le pays d'Autiniquoi (dans la partie méridionale de  
l'Afrique), *i. e.* Knysna, Cape Colony.

*Haplopelia johnstoni* Shelley, Ibis, 1893, p. 28, pl. iii. :  
Nyasaland.

*Range*. South-east coast of Africa, from Cape Colony,  
Transvaal, Natal, Rhodesia, and Nyasaland to British East  
Africa.

*H. l. larvata* is distributed over the greater part of East  
Africa. Specimens from Durban in the British Museum  
are absolutely indistinguishable from a bird obtained on  
Mt. Kenya.

I cannot uphold *H. johnstoni* of Shelley, which he described and figured in 'The Ibis' for 1893, as distinct from this form; the type was obtained by Alexander Whyte on the Milanji Plateau in the highlands of Nyasaland. I have carefully compared a series of twenty adult birds from south of the Zambesi River with nine adult examples from the type-locality of *H. johnstoni*, and the characters given by Shelley do not hold good. It may be mentioned, however, that I found eight specimens from the Chirinda Forest, together with the Nyassaland examples, to be slightly darker on the back than specimens from the country south of Rhodesia.

The specimen from British East Africa, which I refer to this species, was obtained on Mt. Kenya by Mr. H. T. Mackinder, and is now in the National Collection. It is the only specimen known from the country north of Nyasaland.

*H. l. larvata* belongs to the section of the genus the members of which do not appear to assume a grey plumage in the adult male, and which have chestnut under tail-coverts, the general colour of the breast being cinnamon-brown. A large series of specimens have been examined, and none shows the slightest sign of becoming grey on the breast. An immature bird which has almost assumed adult plumage still retains the barred plumage of the young on the wing-coverts.

It appears to assume the adult plumage from that of the barred young in a single moult.

***Haplopetia larvata broncina*.**

*Columba broncina* Rüpp. Neue Wirbelth. 1835, p. 65, pl. xxiii. fig. 1: Simen Province, Abyssinia.

*Range.* Abyssinia and Shoa.

*H. l. broncina* belongs to the cinnamon-brown breasted *Haplopetias* with chestnut under tail-coverts. I can only consider this Pigeon to be a subspecies of *H. larvata*. It may, however, be readily distinguished from that bird by its much smaller size; the wing-measurement of the single

male in the British Museum is only 132 mm., while Dr. Reichenow gives 130 mm. as the wing-measurement of the specimens which have come under his notice.

#### SECTION B.

Such confusion has occurred with respect to the members of this section of the genus that, before dealing with the individual species and subspecies, I wish to give a short *résumé* of the chaos into which the birds from Cameroon, the islands in the Gulf of Guinea, and Uganda have fallen.

First of all, Hartlaub, in 1849, described from St. Thomas Island a Pigeon, which he named *Haplopelia simplex*, which therefore becomes the type of this group.

In 1866 Hartlaub described the bird from Prince's Island, which he named *H. principalis*.

Next, *H. inornata* was described by Dr. Reichenow from Buea, Cameroon Mt., in 1892, and from the description the type is apparently a female, brown in colour.

In 1903, Boyd Alexander discovered and described a bird from Fernando Po, also a female, with the under surface of the body rufous earth-brown, which he named *H. poensis*. Also in 1903 Count Salvadori described *H. hypoleuca*, a grey-breasted bird from Annobon.

In 1904, Dr. Sharpe obtained a young bird still retaining the rufous tips to the feathers of the mantle and wing-coverts from Efulen, Cameroon, which had been shot by Mr. G. L. Bates. This bird was beginning to assume a grey breast, and Sharpe compared it with *H. principalis*; finding it showed marked differences from the Prince's Island bird, he described it as new, notwithstanding its being a very young bird, and named it *H. plumbescens*.

In the same year (1904) an adult male grey-breasted Pigeon was obtained by Seimund in Fernando Po. Sharpe also described this bird and named it *H. seimundi*, considering it perfectly distinct from the brown bird which Alexander had obtained in this island, and had already named *H. poensis*.

Another species, apparently an adult female, was named by Salvadori *H. forbesi*, from an unknown locality (*vide* 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 368).

In the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' xiv. 1904, Sharpe described yet another species, from Ruwenzori, which is named *H. jacksoni*.

Three years later, in 1907, Mr. G. L. Bates sent home a bird which he had obtained on the River Ja in southern Cameroon, close to the type-locality of *H. plumbescens*. This bird, an adult grey-breasted male, proved to be identical in every way with the type of *H. seimundi*, described from Fernando Po, and, as stated by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant (Trans. Zool. Soc. xix. 1910, p. 448), it was from that moment considered that *H. plumbescens* and *H. seimundi* were one and the same bird, the former name having priority.

More recently, in 1909, Dr. Reichenow described a bird with a grey breast from Bebai, southern Cameroon, which he named *Aplopelia tessmanni*. This bird has been shown by Mr. G. L. Bates ('Ibis,' 1911, p. 488) to be synonymous with *H. plumbescens* Sharpe.

In the same year, 1909, Boyd Alexander was engaged in his last expedition to the islands in the Gulf of Guinea, and afterwards commenced his journey on the mainland, which unhappily ended so fatally.

I have just completed working out the bird-collections which he obtained, and, when dealing with the specimens from Cameroon Mountain, I was astonished to find that he had secured a male bird identical in every way with *H. plumbescens*; but shot at the same place within a few days were three brown-coloured females from the type-locality of *H. inornata* agreeing with the description of that bird, and obviously being the females of the grey-breasted male bird which I had identified as *H. plumbescens*. But, on comparing these female examples with the female of *H. plumbescens*, I noticed that the under tail-coverts were cinnamon-colour, whereas in the hen of *H. plumbescens* they are white!

We are therefore left with the following nine names from which to draw conclusions :—

1. *Haplopelia simplex* (Hartl.) (founded on a female).  
St. Thomas Is.
2. *H. principalis* (Hartl.) (founded on a male). Prince's Is.
3. *H. inornata* Reichw. (founded on a female). Came-  
roon Mt.
4. *H. hypoleuca* Salvad. (founded on an adult male).  
Annobon Is.
5. *H. poensis* Alexander (founded on an adult female).  
Fernando Po.
6. *H. plumbescens* Sharpe (founded on a young bird).  
S. Cameroon.
7. *H. seimundi* Sharpe (founded on an adult male).  
Fernando Po.
8. *H. tessmanni* Reichw. (apparently founded on an adult  
male). S. Cameroon.
9. *H. forbesi* Salvad. (founded on an apparently adult  
female). Locality unknown.

*Haplopelia simplex* and *H. principalis* are both recognized as distinct species, and these names hold good.

*H. forbesi* must also be recognized, for reasons hereafter explained.

*H. tessmanni* has already been proved synonymous with *H. plumbescens*, and *H. seimundi* is undoubtedly the male of *H. poensis*, the latter name having priority.

There remain *H. inornata*, *H. hypoleuca*, *H. poensis*, and *H. plumbescens*.

From a close examination of these four\* species, I first came to the conclusion that all were synonymous, as the cock birds from each type-locality are absolutely indistinguishable.

\* I have not handled a skin of *H. s. hypoleuca*, but the description agrees exactly with males of the other three forms, all of which are represented in the British Museum Collection.



An examination of the females showed, however, that the hen bird

in *H. s. inornata* has the under tail-coverts pale cinnamon,

in *H. s. poensis* „ „ „ grey,

and in *H. s. plumescens* „ „ „ white;

while the hen of *H. s. hypoleuca* is not yet known.

I am therefore compelled, somewhat reluctantly, to keep these forms separate, and treat them as subspecies of *H. s. simplex*.

#### *Haplopelia simplex simplex*.

*Turtur simplex* Hartl. Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1849, p. 467 :  
St. Thomas Island.

*Range*, Restricted to St. Thomas Island, Gulf of Guinea.

In 'The Ibis,' 1915, I published a paper on the Birds of St. Thomas Island, the type-locality of *H. s. simplex*. On page 119 of that volume I wrote: "A careful examination of the series of *H. simplex* obtained in St. Thomas shows that in adult examples, *if the sexes have been correctly ascertained* by Alexander, males and females do not differ, and have the same dark brown back washed with grey and grey underparts. Younger examples of both sexes have the upperparts more umber-brown and the underparts pale brown tinged with rufous or buff."

Since I wrote this, I have examined the whole genus *Haplopelia*, and am now convinced that Alexander (or his collector) made a mistake in determining the sex of specimens Nos. 100 and 104, which he marked female, and which are in grey plumage similar to the adult male. If I am correct in this decision, then :—

*The adult male* has the upperparts dark bronze-brown, glossed with purple on the wings, back, and rump; the mantle is glossed with bronze-green or pinkish-amethyst, according to the reflections of the light on the feathers. The sides of the neck are strongly washed with copper-colour. The forehead is white, becoming greyer towards the crown. The general colour of the underparts is grey,

becoming whitish on the belly ; under tail-coverts grey. A very important point is that the tips of the outer tail-feathers are *grey on both webs* (specimen described, No. 98, Alexander Coll.).

*The adult female* has the upperparts very much *browner* and lighter, and only slightly glossed with olive on the back, rump, and wings. The mantle is similarly glossed to the male, but not quite so bright. The underparts are of a grey-brown, but the tips of the outer tail-feathers are only grey on the inner web (specimen described, No. 64\*, Alexander Coll. : breeding when shot).

*The young male* has the upperparts similar to the adult female just described, but the underparts are pale umber-brown tinged with rufous or buff. As the bird becomes older the belly becomes whiter, and the breast begins to lose the brown colour, and it gradually assumes the grey breast of the adult and the darker back. Again, the tips of the outer tail-feathers are grey on both webs as in the adult (specimens described, Nos. 83, 103, 101, and 55, Alexander Coll. : showing change of plumage).

A moulting bird (No. 102) shows the transition-stage between the immature and adult phase of plumage.

*The young female* has the upperparts lighter brown than in the adult female and immature male, and there is a distinct pinkish gloss on all the feathers. The mantle and sides of the head are strongly washed with pinkish, which in certain lights becomes pale green. The underparts are similar to those of the young male, *i. e.*, umber-brown tinged with rufous (specimen described, No. 105, Alexander Coll.).

Only one bird remains to be described, and this is in very peculiar plumage and has puzzled me much. It is No. 27 (?sex), Lake Amelia, and is obviously not fully adult, as it still retains one of the rufous-edged secondaries of the first plumage in the right wing. It is remarkable in having the grey on both webs of the outer tail-feathers shading

\* In my paper on the Birds of St. Thomas, I remarked that this bird (No. 64) had not assumed the fully adult plumage which, at the time of writing, I believed to be similar to that of the adult male.

imperceptibly into the darker bases, whereas in the adult the grey is sharply defined; moreover, the whole of the chest and sides of the neck and throat up to the lower mandible are glossed with greenish. This bird, however, approaches certain other younger specimens in the collection, such as Nos. 28 and 55, killed at the same place and on about the same date. I cannot, therefore, regard it in any other light than as an abnormally coloured specimen.

***Haplopelia simplex inornata*.**

*Haplopelia inornata* Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1892, p. 221 : Buea, Cameroon.

*Range*. Cameroon Mt.; Efulen; River Ja; River Bumba and Bebai (Cameroon).

Specimens, subsequently obtained by Boyd Alexander from the type-locality show that the male of this species resembles the males of *H. s. poensis* and *H. s. plumbescens*, and apparently (from the description) *H. s. hypoleuca*. The females, however, which are all brown, are distinguishable by the colour of the under tail-coverts, being in *H. s. inornata* pale cinnamon, in *H. s. poensis* grey, and in *H. s. plumbescens* white; while the hen of *H. s. hypoleuca* is unknown. From *H. forbesi* the hen of *H. s. inornata* is distinguished by its less rufous and more cinnamon colouring.

A full description of the male and female obtained by Alexander is given in my paper on the Birds of Cameroon Mt. ('Ibis,' 1915, p. 483).

***Haplopelia simplex poensis*.**

*Haplopelia poensis* Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1903, p. 33 : Fernando Po, ♀.

*Haplopelia seimundi* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xiv. June 1904, p. 93 : Fernando Po, ♂.

*Range*. Fernando Po.

When Sharpe described *H. seimundi* as distinct from *H. poensis*, it was not known that these Pigeons had a differently coloured female. I have satisfied myself, however, that this is the case, and *H. seimundi* therefore being

the male of *H. poensis* becomes synonymous with that species, the latter name having priority.

A bird obtained by Alexander on the 20th of November, 1902, and now in the British Museum, is labelled "♀," but I have no doubt that the sex in this case has been wrongly determined. It appears to be an immature male, and the brown feathers, which have not the slightest tinge of rufous as in the female, are just commencing on the breast and belly to become grey. It has the greenish gloss on the mantle characteristic of the male, whereas the female has a more pinkish gloss on the mantle.

In Alexander's paper on the Birds of Fernando Po ('Ibis,' 1903, p. 396) he includes his *Haplopelia poensis* as a synonym of *H. simplex*, having come to the conclusion that the brown female which he shot in Fernando Po and made the type of *H. poensis* is in reality the young of *H. s. simplex*. It is almost impossible to distinguish the young male of *H. s. poensis* from the hen of *H. s. simplex*. The bird which Alexander shot in Fernando Po on the 20th of November, 1902, and determined the sex to be a female, is almost certainly an immature male as I have already pointed out. Count Salvadori quite correctly recognized *H. poensis* as a distinct species in his valuable paper on the Birds of Fernando Po (Mem. Accad. Sci. Torino, 1903, p. 121), and gives his reasons, which are very sound, for refusing to unite *H. s. poensis* with *H. s. simplex* in 'The Ibis,' 1904, p. 369.

Count Salvadori was perfectly right in keeping as distinct races *H. s. simplex*, *H. s. poensis*, and *H. principalis*, so that I have no doubt the new form which he has described from Annobon will prove to be valid.

#### *Haplopelia simplex hypoleuca.*

*Haplopelia hypoleuca* Salvadori, Mem. Accad. Sci. Torino, 1903 (Orn. Golfo d. Guinea, iii. p. 93) : Annobon.

*Range.* Restricted to Annobon.

*H. s. hypoleuca* was described by Count Salvadori from a perfectly adult male specimen obtained in the island of Annobon by Signor Fea on the 14th of April. I have been

unable to examine this Pigeon personally, but Count Salvadori describes it so minutely that I have been able to place it exactly, and include it in my key to the species. The following is a translation of Count Salvadori's latin description:—

♂ *ad.* Forehead white, gradually shading into grey on the occiput; hind-neck and interscapular region grey; the margins of many of the feathers green or shining amethystine. Back, rump, wing-coverts, and middle upper tail-coverts brownish-grey. Throat white, forepart and sides of the neck becoming green when held in certain lights. Middle of the belly and under tail-coverts white; sides of the body grey. Greater wing-coverts, lateral upper tail-coverts, and middle pair of tail-feathers lead-colour; remaining tail-feathers greenish-plumbeous above, pale grey towards the tip. Underside of the tail black, with a broad apical band of whitish-grey. Remiges brownish-grey; under wing-coverts plumbeous. Bill black.

Total length about 290 mm.; wing 150; tail 92; culmen 12; tarsus 30.

The above description applies equally well to the male bird of *H. s. inornata*, *H. s. plumescens*, or *H. s. poensis*! As, however, these races differ only very slightly in the *females*, I have upheld the name proposed for the Annobon bird. It may well prove to have a female showing differences from the three forms mentioned above, and, being isolated, is all the more likely to be distinct. It must be a very rare bird on Annobon, as Boyd Alexander did not secure a single specimen during his last visit to the island.

Could it have been a chance wanderer from the mainland? As it is known to the natives by the name of "Lola Sän-Sän," this is not very probable. Fea, however, says it is extremely rare.

***Haplopelia simplex plumescens.***

*Haplopelia plumescens* Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1904, p. 95: Efulen, southern Cameroon.

*Aplopelia tessmanni* Reichw. *Ornith. Monatsber.* xvii. 1909, p. 87: Bebai, southern Cameroon.

*Range.* Southern Cameroon (excluding Cameroon Mt.), River Ja District.

Sharpe described *H. s. plumbescens* from a very young male bird, which Mr. G. L. Bates had procured at Efulen on the 21st of January, 1902. In his original description he compared it with *H. principalis*, but it is in reality much more closely allied to *H. s. simplex*. Five years after the type had been procured, Mr. Bates procured a second specimen from the River Ja, and in 1910 three more examples—an adult male and female and a young male. Upon receiving the first adult male it was discovered that it in no way differed from the type of *H. seimundi* Sharpe (which I have shown to be synonymous with *H. poensis*); and this was pointed out by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant (Trans. Zool. Soc. xix. 1910, p. 448), and later by Bates himself ('Ibis,' 1911, p. 488), where he notes that his *H. plumbescens* is synonymous with *H. tessmanni* Reichw.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant and Mr. Bates were certainly correct when they pointed out that the males of *H. seimundi* and *H. poensis* were indistinguishable, but the female, which had never been compared, proves that *H. s. plumbescens* and *H. s. poensis* are distinct races, hens of *H. s. plumbescens* having white under tail-coverts, *H. s. poensis* grey. Mr. G. L. Bates made the valuable discovery that the grey males have a brown female. He also gives a description of the nest in his interesting paper.

***Haplopelia simplex jacksoni*.**

*Haplopelia jacksoni* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xiv. 1904, p. 93 : Ruwenzori.

*Range.* Ruwenzori, Uganda.

The type of this species is an immature bird, as has already been pointed out by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant in the Report on the Ruwenzori Collection (Trans. Zool. Soc. xix., 1910, p. 447).

Two adult males were obtained by the Ruwenzori Expedition, and show that the bird is very closely allied to *H. s. simplex*—in fact, it is often difficult to name individual birds of either race from colour alone. When a series is

examined, it will be seen that *H. s. jacksoni* has the underparts suffused with a pinkish wash, while in *H. s. simplex* the underparts are grey, only faintly washed in some cases with pinkish. The best distinction is undoubtedly to be found in the bill, which is much shorter in *H. s. jacksoni* than in the typical form. The bill in the adult specimens of *H. s. jacksoni* measures 13 mm., while in *H. s. simplex* it varies from 15–16 mm. in adult male birds.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant has already published a description of the female and young of this species and of a bird in intermediate plumage which were procured by the Ruwenzori collectors, from which I quote the following :—“The adult female has the upperparts earth-brown, shading into bronzy-rufous on the upper mantle, nape, and occiput, and there is no trace of the grey, violet- or green-glossed mantle which characterises the male; the entire underparts below the neck as well as the under tail-coverts are rich vinous.”

The immature male has the upperparts similar to the adult male, save that the wings are glossed with pinkish-purple instead of with golden-olive, while the underparts are rich vinous like the adult female.

#### ***Haplopelia forbesi*.**

*Haplopelia forbesi* Salvadori, *Ibis*, 1904, p. 368.

*Range and Type-locality.* Unknown.

Count Salvadori has already given a long history of this Pigeon in ‘*The Ibis*,’ where he includes a detailed latin description of the bird, which he names *H. forbesi*.

This Pigeon appears to have been first mentioned in the ‘*Catalogue of the Pigeons in the Derby Museum*,’ where it was referred to as *H. principalis* Hartl., and said to have been obtained in Cayenne! Count Salvadori, having examined the bird, pronounced it to be an undescribed species, probably from West Africa.

The bird, which is almost certainly a female, although the sex was not ascertained by the collector, is remarkable in having the under tail-coverts *white*, thereby differing from the hens of the other known species of *Haplopelia*.

The type is in the Liverpool Museum.

There is a specimen in the British Museum from "West Africa," which, as is stated on the label, has been compared with the type. This example is rather lighter rufous in colouring than the hens of the other nearly allied forms which I have examined, and it certainly possesses pure white under tail-coverts.

As the type-specimen and the bird in the British Museum so closely resemble the hen of *H. s. poensis*, I have little doubt that the male bird (when discovered) will prove to be very closely allied to it, and *H. forbesi* will then rank as a subspecies of *H. simplex*.

For the present I prefer to keep it separate.

#### *Haplopelia principalis*.

*Peristera principalis* Hartl. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1866, p. 330 : Prince's Island.

In my paper on the Birds of Prince's Island I have already pointed out ('Ibis,' 1914, p. 630) that *H. principalis* cannot possibly be confused with *H. s. simplex*, as has been done by Dr. Reichenow. In fact, it is so much more differentiated from the typical form than either *H. s. poensis*, *H. s. inornata*, *H. s. plumbescens*, *H. s. hypoleuca*, or even *H. s. jacksoni*, that I have here kept it as a distinct species.

From these five races the adult males may be distinguished at a glance by their pinkish underparts, while in *H. s. simplex* and the subspecies mentioned above the general tone of the under surface is dove-grey. The hens are not so distinct, but, nevertheless, can be easily differentiated.

It may be that I shall be criticised for considering *H. principalis* from Prince's Island a species, when I unite birds on the mainland and in the other two islands (Fernando Po and Annobon) with *H. s. simplex*—the St. Thomas Pigeon. I have done so, however, as *H. principalis* shows a perfectly distinct scheme of colouring in being pink instead of grey, and shows therefore that it has probably been isolated for a considerably longer period than any of the other island-forms with which we are dealing. It can no longer be united with the grey-breasted birds, and must stand as a separate, well-differentiated race.